Involvement of private sector in the regeneration of Degraded Forests

2194. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have formulated a scheme to involve the private sector in the regeneration of degraded forets areas in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details of the scheme: and

(c) what is the area of forest land which stand degraded in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) In view of the increasing threat of encroachment upon the large quantum of degraded forest land in the country and the need to afforest it urgently so as to expand green cover, inhibit encroachment and halt soil denudation and also to meet fuel and fodder needs and thereby to reduced pressure on existing natural forests and protected areas, the Government is considering to involve industry in afforestation of severely degraded areas in partnership with State Forest Development Corporations so as to augment the efforts and the financial resources available for afforestation scheme of the Central and State Governments, NGOs and People's Co-operatives.

The scheme under consideration will be finalised only after careful assessment of various issues involved and ensuring protection of traditional rights and concessions being enjoyed by the rural and tribal communities. As envisioned, the scheme is intended to benefit rural and tribal communities by increasing the availability of biomass, fuelwood and fodder, and also opening up avenues for rural employment generation.

(c) The State of Forest Report, 1993, published by the Forest Survey of India, Dehradun has indicated in its fourth assessment of the forest cover of the country based on interpretation of landsat imagery pertaining to the period 1989—91, that 25 million ha. of the country's forest cover is Open Forest with crown density between 10% to 40% and about 6 million ha. of forest land is Scrub Area with crown density less than 10%.

Appointment of Environmental Committee

2195. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that environmental committee was appointed into violations of coastal zone of Goa;

(b) if so, when and what were its terms of reference ;

(c) the names of the members of the committee ;

(d) whether any report has been submitted, if so, what were its finding;

(e) what action has since been initiated on the findings;

(f) whether Government would appoint an All India Committee to prove into the coastal violation of the entire country ; and

(g) if not, the reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) A Committee was set up on 21st September, 1994, to assess :

(i) All violations of norms and guidelines including breach of or non-compliance with stipulations with regard to coastal zone regulation by beach resorts and hotels, to whom environmental clearance have been accorded by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India or/and State Government of Goa.

(ii) Construction and other activities undertaken by project proponents or any persons in CRZ without requisite approvals.

(iii) Any sort of violations of rules, norms and/guidelines committed by tourism development, or other activities in the 'No Development Zone'.

(c) The members of this Committee were Sarva Shri Ashok Bhatia, N. P. S. Varde, N. Pandalai, Bittu Sehgal and Debi Goenka.

(d) An interim report has been submitted wherein the Committee has reported certain violations of the Coastal Zone Regulation etc.

(e) The report is being examined and the action matter has been taken up with the State Government to ensure compliance of the norms.

(f) and (g) The question of an all India Committee to probe into coastal violations of the entire country has not been examined.

Jamuna Action Plan

2196. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :